



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR - 9 2015

Darryl Smalls, Commissioner
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Public Works
8244 Sub Base, St. Thomas
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-5805

RE: Categorical Exclusion, Frangipani Sewer Line Replacement, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Dear Mr. Smalls:

This is in response to your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for your sanitary sewer collection system rehabilitation project located in the central area of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The Department of Public Works is seeking operational and structural assessments grant funds through a federal construction program.

Under this CATEX request, a small segment of the Frangipani sanitary sewer collection system is experiencing raw wastewater leakages and/or infiltration/inflow creating environmental and public health concerns. These problems stem from severely deteriorated sewer pipes and connecting manholes that have aged and are near the end of their expected lifespan.

The Frangipani sewer line project consists of replacing approximately 270 linear feet of 6-inch diameter ductile iron sewer pipeline and rehabilitating three connecting manholes located within a swath of land with mowed grass, some fruit trees, and small plants in between the row of homes along Poinsetta Street and Bougainvillea Drive.

Before any pipeline or manhole rehabilitation work begins, an internal camera/television inspection will be performed on the sewer pipelines and associated manholes interior. The rehabilitation of the sewer manhole system will consist of interior cleaning followed by cured in-place slip-lining. Repairs to the manholes will involve epoxy coating, reinforcing concrete walls, and providing new covers. However, if a manhole structure cannot be repaired or rehabilitated, then replacement(s) may be necessary requiring further excavation activities followed by grading and planting or repaving. Replacing the existing sewer pipeline will involve excavating, removal, and installing a new pipeline, followed by restoring the ground surface with replanting grass/vegetation. Prior to placing the rehabilitated pipeline into service, an internal camera/television inspection followed by hydrostatic testing of the line will be conducted. Completing this project will reduce infiltration/inflow and extend the useful life of the Frangipani sanitary sewer collection system.

The project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 6.204(a)(1)(ii). This category includes "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or

minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water, or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Additionally, the available information you provided concerning the proposed action indicates that none of the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10), are present.

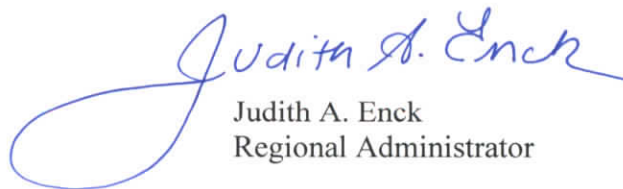
Based on our review, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion,
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist, or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Furthermore, EPA strongly encourages project sponsors to incorporate green practices into all phases of a project, including planning, design, and construction. Such practices can promote sustainable infrastructure, support development of a "green" workforce, and reduce long-term operation and maintenance costs. In previous correspondence with you, we have enclosed a copy of a fact sheet for your information that identifies a variety of recommendations that should be given consideration in projects. EPA hopes to see green practices incorporated as a standard part of future projects in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This CATEX is available for public viewing on EPA's website at [http:// www. epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm). Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: May Adams Cornwall, P.E., Executive Director, WMA
Laurie Williams, Director of Engineering, WMA
James Grum, P.E., Chief Engineer, WMA
Tawana Albany Nicholas, Engineer, WMA
Jomo McClean, Chief Engineer, DPW